

4 Edgewood St.  
Randolph, VT 05060  
May 14, 2005

RECEIVED  
USDA NATIONAL  
ORGANIC PROGRAM  
2005 MAY 23 P 4: 04

National Organic Standards Board  
c/o Arthur Neil  
Room 4008 South Building  
1400 Independence Avenue SW  
Washington, DC, 20250-0001

Re: Support of the NOSB's draft pasture guidance document

Dear NOSB Members:

I am writing to express full support for the NOSB's draft guidance document regarding pasture requirements for the National Organic Program. I have the expectation that the USDA organic seal represents the true meaning of "organic" which includes pasturing of animals as required by the National Organic Program Standards. I request that the NOSB approve the draft pasture guidance document as written including: "Ruminant livestock shall graze pasture during the months of the year when pasture can provide edible forage. The Organic System Plan shall have the goal of providing grazed feed greater than 30% dry matter intake on a daily basis during the growing season but not less than 120 days. The Organic System Plan shall include a timeline showing how the producer will satisfy the goal to maximize the pasture component of total feed used in the farm system."

Providing cows with access to pasture assures that organic principles are being met, with an interrelated system between the animals and the land, working from the soil up to promote an interdependent community. A recent study conducted by the Danish Institute of Agricultural Research tested milk from cows farmed organically and found that it was 50% higher in Vitamin E, 75% higher in beta carotene and higher in omega 3 essential fatty acids than conventional milk. This study tied these qualities to organic cows having room to graze and a diet high in fresh grass and clover.

The standards for organic farms and food marketed under the USDA organic seal must not be compromised.

Sincerely,

*Betty Edson*

I am an:        organic dairy farmer Signature  
  ✓   organic consumer Name Address